

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice to claims 40 and 41, claims 18 and 20 to 39 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter included in claims 40 and 41. In this regard, the Examiner will note that claim 18 has been amended herein without prejudice to include all of the features included in claim 40 and that claim 28 has been amended herein without prejudice to include all of the features included in claim 41. As such, it is believed and respectfully submitted that claims 18 and 28 are in condition for allowance along with dependent claims 20 to 27 and 29 to 39.

III. Claim Rejections

Regarding the rejections raised under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), while the merits of these rejections are not necessarily agreed with, to facilitate prosecution, as indicated above, claim 18 has been amended herein without prejudice to include all of the features included in claim 40, which was indicated to include allowable subject matter, and claim 28 has been amended herein without prejudice to include all of the features included in claim 41, which was indicated to include allowable subject matter. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the claim rejections raised in the Office Action are moot, and withdrawal of those rejections is respectfully requested.

IV. Fees

The Director is authorized to charge any and all fees that may be required in connection with this paper or this application to the deposit account of Kenyon & Kenyon LLP, Deposit Account No. **11-0600**.

V. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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